



OAKHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1938.

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1938.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my thirty-seventh Annual Report on the Health of your District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	52,553
Population Census 1921	..	..	..	..	5,999
Population Census 1931	..	..	..	..	6,144
Estimated Population 1938	..	..	..	..	6,165
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1938					1,861
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	£26,083
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	£103

Social Conditions.

Agriculture is the staple industry, there being no factories or workshops save such as are common to all Rural Districts. Iron-stone is worked in the vicinity of Market Overton and Cottesmore. A large aerodrome has been established by the Air Force at Cottesmore.

Vital Statistics.

Births, legitimate	M.	46	F.	45	Total	91
" illegitimate	M.	<u>1</u>	F.	<u>3</u>	Total	<u>4</u>
Totals:-		<u>47</u>		<u>48</u>		<u>95</u>
Still-births 3 (1 illegitimate)	..	..	..	..	..
Birth-rate	..	..	..	..	..	15.4
Birth-rate for England & Wales	..	..	..	..	..	15.1
Deaths: Males 32.			Females 27.		Total	59
Crude Death-rate	..	..	..	..	..	9.5

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

1. Preparation of the solution

Materials and Apparatus

1. Reagents and chemicals

2. Apparatus

3. Preparation of the solution

4. Determination of the concentration of the solution

5. Calculation of the concentration of the solution

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Determination of the concentration of the solution

2. Determination of the concentration of the solution

3. Determination of the concentration of the solution

4. Determination of the concentration of the solution

5. Determination of the concentration of the solution

6. Determination of the concentration of the solution

7. Determination of the concentration of the solution

CONCLUSIONS

1. Determination of the concentration of the solution

2. Determination of the concentration of the solution

3. Determination of the concentration of the solution

4. Determination of the concentration of the solution

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REFERENCES

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5. Determination of the concentration of the solution

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7. Determination of the concentration of the solution

8. Determination of the concentration of the solution

Comparative Death-rate (i.e. allowing for age and sex distribution)	7.9
" " " for England & Wales	11.6
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age: legitimate 2 illegitimate 1	3
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 births	31
Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales	53

Causes of Death.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
<u>All Causes.</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>27</u>
Diphtheria	1	1
Influenza	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	-
Respiratory tuberculosis	1	-
Other tuberculosis diseases	-	-
Cancer, malignant disease	9	8
Cerebral haemorrhage etc.	2	2
Heart disease	3	8
Other circulatory diseases	3	1
Bronchitis	-	1
Pneumonia	1	-
Other respiratory diseases	1	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	1
Nephritis	1	1
Puerperal sepsis	-	-
Other puerperal causes	-	-
Congenital causes	1	1
Suicide	3	-
Other violence	3	-
Other defined diseases	1	3
Causes ill-defined or unknown	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:-

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included. On 1st July his duties in this and in five other Districts will be taken over by Dr. John Young.

The late Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. Alderwood, was a whole-time Officer for this and kindred services for over 50 years. His successor Mr. G. E. Wells supplies practically all the Sanitary and Housing particulars in this Report. He also is a whole-time officer and with so large a District and so many duties he should in my opinion be provided with assistance.

Hospitals:-

Cases of Infectious Disease are sent to one or other of the Leicestershire Isolation Hospitals, usually to Melton Mowbray.

Other particulars furnished in previous Annual Reports are still applicable, no special alterations or developments having taken place during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water:-

There are 5 parishes with a piped supply from the public mains, 9 from private reservoirs and 14 without a piped supply.

Improvement and extension of the public supply at Empingham having been completed the scheme is functioning satisfactorily. Recent bacteriological examinations of this and other piped supplies have all been favourable.

An informal Ministry of Health inquiry has been held concerning a supply for Edith Weston and an Inquiry concerning compulsory purchase of the Cottesmore supply is pending. The piped supply has been extended to the Aerodrome.

Nine samples of well water were examined, three proving unsatisfactory. Six wells were cleansed and repaired and two were closed. In seven instances the public supply was laid on in lieu of well water.

Towards the close of the year there was a temporary shortage at Whissendine.

Drainage & Sewerage:-

The Air Ministry has provided a sewerage system at the Cottesmore Aerodrome including a disposal plant with duplicate percolating filters.

Repairs to the septic tanks at Cottesmore and Market Overton have been completed.

Following repeated complaints as to nuisance from contamination of the brook at Langham, Consulting Engineers have been called in and have advised a comprehensive sewerage scheme. Having advocated it for many years I sincerely trust that the completion of this most necessary improvement will now be expedited.

Eight cesspools were constructed during the year and one was abolished. There are now about 320 in the District.

Closet Accommodation:-

Approximate No. in District	(1) Privies	57
	(2) Pail Closets	1,005
	(3) Water Closets	285

There were 12 conversions to water-carriage. Two privies were converted to pail closets.

Public Cleansing:-

Seven of the villages in the District - Cottesmore, Exton, Empingham, Greetham, Langham, Market Overton and Manton - are provided with a system of weekly scavenging of night-soil and refuse by Contractors. A partial removal is provided for Ashwell, Barrow and Whissendine. Cesspools at Empingham are emptied by contract. Cottesmore Aerodrome is dealt with by a private Contractor. Two new disposal sites have been acquired.

Sanitary Inspection of the District:-

The following particulars are submitted by the Sanitary Inspector.

Total number of complaints received during the year	..	44
" " " defects or nuisances discovered	..	44
" " " primary Inspections	.. .. .	556
" " " revisits	.. .. .	1,270
" " " notices served - Informal 86. Statutory		39
" " " summonses issued	.. .. .	Nil

Camping Sites:- Sites used 3, Licences issued.

Regulated Buildings:-

Common Lodging Houses	..	None in the District	
Canal Boats	.. ..	" " " "
Offensive Trades	.. ..	" " " "
Tents, Vans, Sheds &c.	..	No. in District	3
		No. of Inspections	10

Removal of a van near Cottessmore Aerodrome was effected without recourse to legal proceedings.

Eradication of Bed-bugs:-

No cases came under observation. All premises and tenants' belongings are inspected before removal to Council Houses and the latter are visited weekly by the Sanitary Inspector.

Schools:-

The Public Elementary Schools in the District are for the most part very small and many of them are very old. The water supply is from Wells or from the public supply if available.

One school was fumigated throughout with Formalin.

Swimming Baths and Pools open to the Public:- None in the District.

H O U S I N G.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

- | | | |
|---|------------|-----|
| (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | .. | 123 |
| Number of inspections made for the purpose | .. .. | 256 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 | .. | 42 |
| Number of inspections made for the purpose | .. .. | 42 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | .. .. .. . | 59 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | | 52 |

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	29
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners 1

(b) By local authority in default of owners Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- Nil

(a) By owners

(b) By local authority in default of owners

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 16

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 3

4. Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding.

(a) i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year 7

ii. Number of families dwelling therein .. 7

iii. Number of persons dwelling therein .. 46

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 2

(c) i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 20

ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases 115½

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

18 houses have been completed during the year by the Council, partly for relief of overcrowding and partly for slum clearance while 12 have been provided by private enterprise. Eight more Council houses are nearing completion while a further 16 are to be erected this year.

In addition to the above, 48 houses have been erected at the Cottesmore Aerodrome.

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply:-

Cowkeepers:-

No. on Register	..	..	..	140
No. of Inspections	..	..	..	82
No. of Contraventions:				
Outstanding from previous year	..			1
Found during year	..	..	..	17
Remedied during year		..	..	15
Outstanding, December 31st			..	2

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk:-
(other than Cowkeepers)

No. on Register	..	..	..	4
No. of Inspections	..	..	..	8
No. of Contraventions	..	..	..	Nil

Total Contraventions.

	Outstanding from previous year	Found during year	Remedied during year	Outstanding on Dec. 31st
Cleansing	Nil	3	3	Nil
Structural Alterations	1	11	9	2
Utensils	Nil	2	2	Nil
Other	Nil	1	1	Nil

One producer has had his name removed from the list of Accredited Milk Producers by the County Council and alterations to the premises have since been carried out.

The Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 & 1938.

No. of Licences issued in respect of:-

	'Tuberculin Tested'	'Accredited'	'Pasteurised'
Bottling	1	-	Nil
Distribution			
Dealers	2	-	-
Supplementary	2	19	-

(b) Meat and other Foods:-

No. of public abattoirs in district	..	..	..	Nil
Private slaughter-houses:-	<u>In Jan. 1938.</u>		<u>In Dec. 1938.</u>	
No. registered	Nil		Nil	
No. licensed	14		12	
No. of visits to premises other than at times of slaughter			80	
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter			26	
No. of knacker yards in district	..	..	..	Nil
No. of visits to knacker yards	..	..	..	Nil

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total Weight in lbs.
Number killed (approximate)	250	50	25	600	300	
Number inspected	20	10	2	50	50	
All Diseases except <u>Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	⌘	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	1	-	-	2	15
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	Nil	10%	Nil	Nil	4%	
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	-	-	-	488
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	1	-	-	1	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	20%	Nil	Nil	2%	

⌘ 27 pigs were destroyed for swine fever in the Parish of Barrow.

Meat Shops etc.	No. of inspections	9
Other food.	Inspections of premises	2

Licensed Premises:-

Inspection of the sanitary conditions on licenced premises was followed by improvement in five instances.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases came under observation during the year:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet fever	3	-	-
Diphtheria	14	14	2
Para-typhoid fever	1	1	-
Pneumonia	4	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-

Two cases of Scarlet Fever were notified at Braunston and there was one case at Cottesmore.

The case of Poliomyelitis occurred at Gunthorpe.

DIPHTHERIA.

The 14 notified cases of Diphtheria were all removed to hospital. They were distributed as follows:- Ashwell 1, Burley 1, Cottesmore 2, Eggleton 4, Empingham 2, Stretton 1, Thistleton 1 and Whissendine 2.

In the first fortnight of April a case was notified in each of four widely separated parishes. They synchronised with four cases in the town of Oakham and during the following month four cases at Eggleton and 15 in Oakham led to our advising a comprehensive Immunisation scheme for the Urban and Rural Districts. It was commenced in Oakham and followed by the offer of Immunisation to school and pre-school children throughout the Rural District. There can be but little doubt that the severe type of many of the cases stimulated a ready response to our offer of protective treatment and this was enhanced by the advice of the doctors who carried out the actual immunisations at each of 15 centres.

What is known as the 'two shot' method was employed. In other words an intramuscular injection of Alum Precipitated

Toxoid (A.P.T.) was followed in about a fortnight by a larger injection of the same substance.

The course for each child was voluntary and it was undertaken only on the written request of the parent or guardian.

The following table shows the number of school children and pre-school children immunised at each School Centre:-

School	No. on Register	No. immunised		Girl Guides
		School Age	Below School Age	
Ashwell	30	25	5	
Braunston	42	33	11	
Burley	21	19	10	
Cottesmore C.E.	42	36	8	
" Central	98	90	-	
Empingham	89	80	16	
Exton C.E.	46	35	19	
" R.C.	39	37	9	
Greetham	74	65	20	
Hambleton	31	30	9	4
Langham	63	59	13	
Manton	22	21	10	10
Market Overton	72	59	8	
Stretton	13	12	2	
Whissendine	68	56	18	
Totals:-	750	657	158	14
Oakham Central (Rural Dist. children)		59	10	-
" C.E. (" " ")		3	2	-
Totals:-		719	170	14

In addition to the above, 8 school children and 7 pre-school children received one injection. Altogether 903 children received the full course while 15 had one injection.

The result of so effective an immunisation (87 per cent of the school population) was all that could be desired; for only 6 cases occurred during the remainder of the year, one within a

fortnight of the second injection (i.e. before there was time to establish immunity) and the other five in adults residing in three parishes!

The following table shows the age-distribution of the Tuberculosis cases:-

Age-Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5 years and under 10	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10 " " " 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 " " " 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 " " " 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 " " " 45	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 " " " 55	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55 " " " 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-

The following pathological examinations were made at the Virol Research Laboratories:-

Swabs for Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	69
Blood for Typhoid, Para-typhoid & Undulant Fevers						2
Cerebro-spinal fluid	..	..	..	..	..	1

Factories, Workshops & Workplaces:-

1. Inspections:-

Factories with mechanical power	No. of inspections	2
	No. of written notices	Nil
Factories without mechanical power	No. of inspections	38
	No. of written notices	Nil
Other premises	No. of inspections	Nil
	No. of written notices	Nil

2. Defects found:-

Want of Cleanliness	1
No. remedied	1

No instance of Outwork in unwholesome premises came under observation, and it was not found necessary to refer any matter to H.M. Inspector.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. O'CONNOR, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

~~(until 1st April 1939)~~

Kirby Muxloe,

Leicester.

31st May, 1939.

